

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Following is a complete set of claims as amended with this Response. This complete set of claims includes claims 14-32.

14. (New) An apparatus comprising:
a conditional access module having a slot sized to receive a card having a first form factor; and
an adapter configured for insertion into the slot and for receipt of a card having a second form factor different than the first form factor, the adapter to use out of band (OOB) signals to send a serial transport stream to the card having the second form factor.

15. (New) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the card having the first form factor is a NRSS-B module and the card having the second form factor is a NRSS-A module.

16. (New) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the NRSS-B module is a PCMCIA card and the NRSS-A module is a smart card.

17. (New) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the conditional access module comprises:
a first converter to convert a scrambled data stream in a parallel format into a serial signal for output to the adapter, and
a second converter to receive a descrambled serial data stream from the adapter and to convert the descrambled serial data stream into a descrambled data stream in a parallel format.

18. (New) The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the conditional access module further comprises a first switch coupled to the first converter and a second switch coupled to the second converter.

19. (New) The apparatus of claim 18, wherein the first switch of the conditional access module receives as input the scrambled data stream in the parallel format and the second switch of the conditional access module outputs the descrambled data stream in the parallel format.

20. (New) The apparatus of claim 16 wherein the adapter is configured to read data from ISO contacts of the smart card.

21. (New) The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the first switch of the conditional access module is configured to provide data and clock signals when the PCMCIA card is inserted into the slot in lieu of the adapter.

22. (New) The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the conditional access module further comprises a third switch coupled to the first converter to receive the serial signal, an output of the switch is coupled to an out-of-band (OOB) pin of the adapter.

23. (New) The apparatus of claim 22, wherein the third switch of the conditional access module is coupled to receive as input (i) at least one data bit from the first switch and (ii) the serial signal from the first converter.

24. (New) The apparatus of claim 14 is a set-top box.

25. (New) A conditional access (CA) module having a slot adapted to receive either a NRSS-B module or an adapter coupled together with a NRSS-A module, the conditional access module comprising:

a parallel-to-serial converter to convert a scrambled transport stream having a parallel format into a scrambled serial transport stream, the scrambled serial transport stream is transmitted over a first communication path;

a second communication path to transmit the scrambled transport stream in the parallel format; and

a first switch to transmit (i) the scrambled serial transport stream if the adapter is inserted into the slot of the CA module or (ii) the scrambled transport stream in the parallel format if the NRSS-B module is inserted into the slot of the CA module.

26. (New) The CA module of claim 25 further comprising a serial-to-parallel converter to convert a descrambled serial transport stream into a scrambled transport stream in a parallel format, the descrambled serial transport stream is transmitted over a third communication path.

27. (New) The CA module of claim 25 further comprising a second switch coupled to the serial-to-parallel converter, the second switch to receive either (i) the descrambled serial transport stream from the serial-to-parallel converter if the adapter is inserted into the slot of the CA module or (ii) a parallel scrambled transport stream directly from the NRSS-B module card if inserted into the slot of the CA module.

28. (New) The CA module of claim 25, wherein the scrambled serial transport stream is routed into an single pin of an interface of the adapter.

29. (New) The CA module of claim 28, wherein the scrambled transport stream in the parallel format is routed into multiple pins of an interface of the NRSS-B module.

30. (New) A method comprising:
implementing a conditional access (CA) module into an apparatus that comprises a slot that enables a module to establish an electrical connection with the CA module;
determining whether the module is a NRSS-B module or an adapter with a NRSS-A module inserted into the adapter;
wherein the CA module is adapted to support both NRSS-A and NRSS-B communication protocols.

31. (New) The method of claim 30 further comprising:
transmitting a scrambled transport stream in a parallel format when the module is determined to be the NRSS-B module;
converting the scrambled transport stream in the parallel format into a scrambled serial transport stream;
transmitting the scrambled serial transport stream when the module is the adapter with the NRSS-A module.

32. (New) The method of claim 30 further comprising:
receiving a descrambled transport stream in a parallel format when the module is determined to be the NRSS-B module;
receiving a descrambled transport stream in a parallel format;
converting the descrambled transport stream in the parallel format into a scrambled serial transport stream;
providing the scrambled serial transport stream when the module is the adapter with the NRSS-A module and alternatively providing the descrambled transport stream in the parallel format when the module is the NRSS-B module.